

ST. MARY OF CZESTOCHOWA
CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, which will be celebrated on October 21.

At the turn of the last century, an increase in the Polish Catholic population led to the need for a third church in the Nanticoke area. The original St. Mary's church was a simple wooden structure located at the corner of Hanover and Grove streets. It was home to a congregation of approximately 500 parishoners, although an estimated 2,000 people worshipped there.

Nearly five years to the day of its dedication, the first church was destroyed by fire. Under the leadership of the first resident pastor, Rev. Adolph E. Nowicki, a new church was built at the corner of Hanover and Field streets and was blessed and dedicated soon thereafter.

St. Mary's present pastor, Rev. John S. Krafchak, is the eighth pastor to serve the parish, having served since 1983. He also served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's from 1960 to 1966. During his 18 years as pastor, Father Krafchak has continued to support the efforts of the church's organizations, the spiritual needs of the congregation and the material upkeep of the parish.

Father Krafchak's first major undertaking was the construction of a new rectory, which was completed in 1985. A Holy Hour of Prayers for Priests was begun in 1986 and has been held once a month since its inception. It was also around that time that air conditioning was installed in the church. With the 1988 consolidation of all the parish schools in the Nanticoke area into Pope John Paul II School, St. Mary's school became the home of Head Start, a federal pre-school program offered to Nanticoke-area children ages 3 and 4 from low-income families. St. Mary's has also teamed with St. Stanislaus Church to promote the Renew 2000 program, a parish renewal endeavor to foster spiritual growth among their parishoners. The parishes have also held consolidated Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes since 1996.

In preparation for this year's 100th anniversary, the interior of the church was painted and refurbished with carpeting and most significantly, an imported replica of the famous Our Lady of Czestochowa image, measuring more than 7 feet in height, was placed on the wall above the main altar. The church organ was also reconditioned to return it to most of its original musical capabilities.

One of the portions of St. Mary's history of which the parishoners can be most proud is that the parish has been the mother of 39 vocations, 18 to the priesthood, 20 to the sisterhood and one to the diaconate. The parish also acknowledges the dedication of another parishoner, Henry Gonshor, who aspired to the priesthood but was called to his eternal rest before finishing his preparatory studies.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Over the past 100 years, St. Mary's has seen the formation of the following organizations, most of which are still flourishing today: St. Cecilia's Choir, Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality, the Holy Name Society, the Sacred Heart Society, Third Order of St. Francis, Purgatorial Society, the Catholic Council of Women and the Usher's Club. These organizations have helped unite many parishoners throughout the years toward a common cause of service to God and the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the 100 years of dedication, faith and good works of the people of St. Mary's Church, and I wish them all the best.

SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN
AFGHANISTAN**HON. SUSAN DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, prior to the Soviet occupation in 1979 Afghanistan was a country on the path to modernization. Afghan women were doctors, lawyers, judges, civil servants, in short, they were a vital aspect of Afghan society.

Women were active members of society. They attended universities. They had the right to vote. They participated in many sectors of the work force. However, decades of war, drought, famine, and oppression have taken a hefty toll on the entire population, and women in particular.

In a country where women were once equal and respected members of society, they are now shrouded into silence. Life for women in Afghanistan no longer exists. They live in seclusion, unable to interact with others.

In 1996, a now notorious regime known as the Taliban moved into the capital city of Kabul and began imposing their strict moral code. The Afghan people awoke one morning to find that their lives had been changed overnight. The Taliban announced the imposition of their new rules over Afghanistan's national radio.

Women were no longer allowed to work or attend school. Women were no longer permitted to leave their homes without a male relative. If they were caught outside without the accompaniment they were lashed with whips. Women were no longer allowed to wear nail polish. If they did, their fingernails would be pulled out. Making excessive noise when walking was also grounds for punishment.

Afghan women have lived under this magnitude of oppression for five years now, and it has taken its toll. Depression and suicide rates in Afghanistan have dramatically increased. Previously, suicide was virtually unheard of, now many women see it as the only means to end their suffering. Some women are choosing to end their lives by drinking a caustic soda, a solution that causes severe pain and takes three days to take effect.

I know of one Afghan woman named "Roziya" who managed to escape Kabul and find refuge in America. She left Afghanistan after her husband was taken away and subse-

quently killed by the Taliban. His only crime was that he did not subscribe to the Taliban mentality. She was forced to flee her homeland with her four young children, eventually making her way to San Diego.

She is one of the lucky few that has managed to escape. However, even in America she is frightened to speak out against the Taliban in fear that they will punish her remaining family members in Kabul.

The plight of the Afghan women under the oppressive hand of the Taliban has been going on for over five years. These egregious violations of human rights must end. In addition, the women of Afghanistan—freed from this oppression—must have an opportunity to play a role in the rebuilding of a more open society. Only then will Afghan children grow up believing life holds something besides being a freedom fighter or a terrorist.

TRIBUTE TO RUSH LIMBAUGH

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Rush Limbaugh is an inspiration to all of us. Although he is facing a personal challenge, it is not stopping him from continuing to be a champion for our cherished way of life. Rush has been a strong voice for freedom, free enterprise and our military during this difficult time in history. I salute you, Mr. Limbaugh. You're a great American.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2001 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 19

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the public health response to the recent anthrax exposures.

SD-124